

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

2 GENERALS CALL SURPRISE ATTACK PERIL GREATEST IN U.S. HISTORY

**Senators Hear Bedell
Smith and Bradley—
Witnesses Call for
Power in Being, Not
in Reserve.**

By BRIG. GEN. THOMAS R.
PHILLIPS, U.S.A. (Ret.)
Military Analyst of the
Post-Dispatch.

WASHINGTON, April 16 —
Gen. Walter Bedell Smith and
Gen. Omar N. Bradley agreed,
under questioning today by a
Senate subcommittee, that the
United States has never before
in its history been so subject to
surprise attack as it is today.

Gen. Smith was the first wit-
ness before a Senate Armed
Forces subcommittee headed by
Senator Stuart Symington
(Dem.), Missouri.

Bradley declared: "I firmly
believe if a third world war
started as a planned war it would
open with an all-out nuclear at-
tack on the United States." He
added that, of course, this might
not be the case if it started as
a small war and the conflagra-
tion spread into a major war.

Bradley and Smith were in
agreement that military power
to deter aggression and to win
if a war occurred must be in
being, not in reserve. The time
is past, the two distinguished
retired generals said, when
United States military forces
can be developed after war
starts as was the case in the
last two world wars.

Criticism by Symington.

Symington has consistently
attacked the Administration's
position on defense on the floor
of the Senate and in commit-
tee hearings. He has asserted
that the desire for a balanced
budget has been the primary
motivation for the Adminis-
tration's actions relative to the
armed services, and not mili-
tary necessity.

The subcommittee organized
to conduct hearings on the ade-
quacy of the Air Force and its
relative position to that of the
Soviet Union consists of Sym-
ington, Senators Henry M.
Jackson (Dem.), Washington;
Sam J. Ervin (Dem.), North
Carolina; Leverett Saltonstall
(R e p.), Massachusetts, and
James H. Duff (Rep.), Penn-
sylvania.

The initial session was
marked by its dignity and re-
straint: There was no effort to
elicit extreme statements nor
to prejudge the inquiry. The
purpose in calling Smith and
Bradley was to put the military
situation of the United States
into the international perspec-
tive of modern conditions.

In his opening statement
Symington said that "it is vital
for the decisions (on military
policy) to be reached on the
basis of informed public opin-
ion. Therefore, to the greatest
extent possible, we plan to pub-
lish the information obtained."

"Only a strong and clear
showing of injury to the nation-
al defense," he continued, "will
justify the incalculable damage
which can result from the peo-
ple being forced to act in ignor-
ance on matters which will de-
termine their freedom."

"There would be cases," he
said, "where the damage from
disclosure exceeds the damage
resulting from uninformed pub-
lic opinion."

The subcommittee, he con-
tinued, would hold closed hear-
ings when it was desired by the
Defense Department and de-
fense censorship will be re-
spected initially. But later on,
Symington declared, the De-
fense Department will be re-
quired to justify its censorship
and much censored testimony
should be declassified and pub-
lished.

Served Under Eisenhower.

Smith, who had been Gen.
Eisenhower's chief of staff in
World War II, Ambassador to
Moscow and director of the
Central Intelligence Agency,
was calm and positive in his
testimony.

Smith said that the rehabili-
tation of the Soviet Union after
the war had been accomplished
much more rapidly than had
been thought possible. He told
of a conversation with Joseph
Stalin, the late dictator, in
which Stalin asked him what
our estimate of the Soviet army
was at the time Germany at-
tacked the Soviet Union.

He told Stalin, Smith said,
that he had estimated the Rus-
sian army would not last more
than six months.

Stalin replied that he was
right. The army with which the

U.S.S.R. started the war lasted
only about six months. But,
Stalin told Smith, where you
were wrong was in underesti-
mating how rapidly we could
organize a new and better army.

Smith said that he heard
V. M. Molotov, then foreign
minister of the Soviet Union,
make his announcement that the
Russians had the secret of the
A-bomb. The following year,
in August 1949, the Russians
exploded their first atom bomb.

Warns Against Doubting Reds.

Smith said that we should not
discount important Soviet an-
nouncements of this nature, re-
ferring to the advance state-
ment of the Russian hydrogen
bomb and its explosion shortly
after and only nine months after
the United States exploded its
first H-bomb.

Smith also advised that we
should not discount Soviet state-
ments on their progress with
long-range missiles.

In regard to training of sci-
entists, Smith said that the West
had underestimated Russian
scientific progress. He main-
tained that we had always re-
spected their top level scientists
but that we were inclined to un-
derestimate their technicians
and engineers. He did not dis-
count information that the Rus-
sians are now graduating more
than two times as many engi-
neers as the United States. He
also said that their engineers
were as good as our best.

In vital military areas, Smith
stated, the United States must
keep ahead. He emphasized, as
did Bradley, the importance of
research on new weapons.

Bradley said that air power
has become predominant as a
deterrent to war and as a means
of winning war. The air power
must be in existence, not only
in the form of modern aircraft,
but with trained personnel and
adequate bases. Bradley also

emphasized the importance of
defenses against air attack.

Bradley said that the best
deterrent against war is to
maintain strong forces in being.
No one goes around picking a
fight with Rocky Marciano, he
added.

Bradley was concerned with
keeping America's weapons
modern. "We must spare no ex-
pense," he declared, "in turning
out a continuous stream of
weapons steadily replenished to
keep abreast of technical prog-
ress and immediately available
in case of emergency."

"This is part of the premium
we must pay for peace and our
best insurance against war."